

A WHITE HOUSE TOUR WITH PRESIDENT TRUMAN (5-3-1952)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Um8la1dRNR0> (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Um8la1dRNR0>)

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From May 3rd, 1952 President Harry S. Truman gives the very first television tour of the newly rebuilt White House. The House had just gone through a massive \$5.7 million, 27 month long ground up reconstruction. Truman had moved back in in March 1952.

- The program was hosted by CBS NEWS, Walter Cronkite, ABC NEWS, Bryson Rash and NBC NEWS Frank Bourgholtzer

[00:00:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Um8la1dRNR0\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Um8la1dRNR0)

the president of the united states at home on saturday afternoon may 3rd 1952 at 4 o'clock may 3rd 1952 at 4 o'clock this is the time and this is the place sixteen hundred pennsylvania avenue washington dc from the top of the washington monument we can see the entire white house against the background of its surroundings here is a closer view of the south front overlooking a broad lawn the rose garden fountain and the nation's living christmas tree which the president lights each christmas eve but here is the white house as most of us picture the north front facing pennsylvania avenue almost unchanged since 1829 when the portico was completed its strength restored its simple dignity renewed the white house is again in truth the home of the president he has invited us here to guide us himself through the renovated but still history-filled rooms thousands of americans visiting their nation's capital have seen these rooms but millions of others have never had that opportunity it is particularly for those millions that the president has arranged this tour these are the doors to the entrance hall where we will be welcomed and where our representatives frank bergholser walter cronkite and bryson rash are waiting for the [Music] president [Music]

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[Music] i'm glad to have this opportunity to show the people just what the revamped white house looks like on the state floors those who are familiar with it will see very little change one of the main changes of course is the state stairway which now is a state stairway and the seal has been taken out of the floor and put up above the blue room on this floor and the old seal is above the diplomatic reception room on the ground floor which we'll look at as we go down shall we do that now mr president whenever you're ready let's go this is the main foyer up here that we just greeted you in uh and we're going downstairs now to the ground floor that's right the ground floor the stairway we're using is used by the people who come to receptions they just go out by the way of this stairway they assemble down here on this floor and then yeah go upstairs into the east room and then there you see and now that we're down in this corridor i assume that uh all of the executive officers are off of this corridor on the other wings aren't they sir executive officers are on the west end of the white house and there's rare offices also on the east end which those are the business offices for the white business offices is this the seal up here mr president that was removed from the floor that's the old seal that is in the floor on the main hallway on the on the first floor was it your decision to move that mr president well i don't like to see people walk over the seal so we put it up over this door this

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seal so we put it up over this door this old one over the door here and the new one over the blue room door so people could see it without desecrating it by walking on it i noticed upstairs mr president that the eagle on the seal over the blue room the new seal faces the in the other direction yes this uh seal had the eagle facing in the wrong direction facing toward war the arrows he should face toward the olive branch which is peace you also notice on the new seal in addition to the 13 stars over the eagle's head which represent the 13 original states the new seal has 48 states 48 stars around the outside representing the whole union did that take any uh special executive order to do that yes that's what was made by my order and this is the diplomatic reception diplomatic reception room used to be a boiler room and from the rehabilitation of 1902 was made it was made into this diplomatic reception room we made no changes in it at all except that now we have some of the most beautiful of the first ladies down here on the walls this used to contain some old-fashioned portraits of presidents those portraits are still in the house but i think it looks much better with these good-looking ladies in it that was a change under your direction too wasn't it mr president well didn't uh mr roosevelt have the gentleman in here the presidents well no he inherited them just as they were they were already in here when he came and when we revamped this thing we tried to get as many pictures of first ladies as we possibly can we have dolly madison and mrs theodore roosevelt mrs hoover and we have mrs van buren and mrs tyler beautiful woman miss james capo and mr president this room enters off on the south portico of the white house facing toward the jefferson memorial in the washington monument that's right

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the washington monument that's right mountains in between on the grounds entrance here's underneath the main porch on the first floor and through this room that the diplomats enter when they come to your official receptions that they did just a couple of nights ago that's great that's right and the gentleman form up over in the china room we're going to see in the moment to the right and the ladies over in the left that's right then when they come out they uh join by protocol and up the stairs to their receiving lines this room has a more recent uh historical connotation doesn't it mr president it was the broadcasting room uh president roosevelt myself always made our broadcasts in this room this is where the president's fireside chats yeah and i think that right there he made the address to the nation right after pearl harbor that's correct famous day that's right should we move on then to another of our rooms down here mr president let's see and off to the right of the china room we'll go to in a moment and officer left that cloak room we're crossing the hall again the main corridor here on the ground floor and into let's see this room mr president is the old kitchen the old kitchen it doesn't look much like a kitchen today sir the old kitchen it had wonderful fireplaces and with all the cooking utensils which we put back in there as soon as we get the vaulted ceilings here all to the ceiling and the fireplaces were made out of brick in the in the old house before this was uh torn out but we've made it out of those are interesting symbols above the fireplace masonic i believe i read well we found them in the foundation of the white house and this all this stone came out of the the foundation of the white house can you tell us what those symbols mean or is that part of the secret to the sonic lore well you find those marks in all the great cathedrals of europe stone masons have used them from time immemorial supposedly from the time of solomon's temple now whether that's true or not i can't ask for for the stone masons who built the white house from old country and brought that with them or is that just part of the masonic

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or is that just part of the masonic war they started the house in 1792 and i don't know whether they were native of the colonies natives of the colonies or whether they were imported i can't answer the question i don't know this desk here is the most interesting thing it's a beautiful thing i believe it does have a history sir yes it's a part of the hms resolute which it was a part of sir john franklin's uh tour in his attempt to find the northwest passage the ship was frozen in the ice and along in the 70s it was discovered by an american a ship and taken back to great britain and queen victoria had this destiny and gave it to the president i think it was the president hayes that the desk was presented for the white house mr president if i remember correctly isn't this the desk that president wilson used all through world war one he fought the war across this desk virtually in the study upstairs yes this desk was in the study upstairs but the desk that's in the

presidential office is the one that was put there in nineteen i think in 1902 by theodore roosevelt but this desk was in the president's study in the white house has drawers on the corners i've been told noticed out there that mrs wilson presumably dropped his secret papers in and it has the doors on uh doors on each side and behind those doors are drawers on both sides of the desk well it was practically a secret thing yeah it wasn't this the desk too that we used to see in the pictures with all of the democratic ghee gaws across and president roosevelt's administration wasn't this no no no this isn't the one there that one is in hyde park oh today good and hot pot what about this interesting old grill here mr president that came out of the original white house and when this was the that's right that's part of the old kitchen and we hope to be able to obtain the old cooking utensils that went with these two fireplaces well that would make an interesting

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well that would make an interesting display indeed you've got a same sort of a uh fireplace at the other end of this yes it's the same old kitchen room these this was the basement of the white house as i understand it until the theodore roosevelt renovation and he dug a uh excavation out put in a new basement and uh made this part an integral part of the working quarters no there wasn't any basement under this house at all until we put it there there was no basement until we put it there well i didn't this is the china room back across the wall next to the diplomatic reception room that's right this is paneling mr president very interesting that the original pine is it this came out of the white house all this panning on this floor is wood out of the old white house as was turned down to save and all these uh ground floor rooms are paneled with the pine that came out of their old house i like the touch of leaving the original nail holes in it too yeah adds that much that's a picture of mrs coolidge i was coming here to reception one time this picture formally was out in the corridor there and i came in with senator mark shepard of texas and we stopped in front of mrs cousy's picture and senator shepard said harry that dog got my breakfast one time when i was down here i said well how'd that happen well he said president coolidge used to have breakfast for senators and congressmen said we were sitting around the table and the dog came up and barked and mr cooley said senator he wants your sausage i gave you my sausage and i didn't get another one mr president what about this piece of furniture out in the middle looks like it came from the baltimore hotel in kansas city when they tore the old building down it came here in 1860 and was formerly in the blue room if i remember correctly during president lincoln's administration and this being the china room could we take a look at some of this china down here here is the pierce channel franklin pierce uh about that there's

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franklin pierce uh about that there's samples here nearly every presidential purchase this is lincoln china here i see that mr lincoln had the uh eagle facing the right way on his side that's the way it ought to be on the great sea of the united states this is magenta and beautiful indeed dolly madison's china here this is before the house was burned and this is after the house was burned so you see by the british in 1812 yeah that's right lovely blue before and greener green afterwards very nice floral wreath around some lovely china over here on this side this is a theodore rooster up here gold with the seal small up at that edge and the eagle facing the wrong way no no no no no no he's the right one in the united states and if the eagle faces the right way on the ground with the united states of course i never knew this you pointed out a moment ago i'll be watching heads of eagles most of the time and not necessarily those on coins either this is the woodrow wilson china isn't that lovely oh that is beautiful i think that's one of the most beautiful sets i've ever came to the right was the the fact that there is a special piece with the blue and so forth was that the president's own plate i mean service no that's the service place service plate that's the service plate you'd see a service plate nearly every one of them except where they've all been broken up now this is we should have the ladies on this franklin roosevelt china here you see it's blue for the great seal of the united states on it and this is our contribution over here it's great for the folks it's it's a pike or cream color with a green and gold border and has the presidential seal on the service plates and on the other plates it has the great seat of the united states just like all the rest of the china how about that bottle there is so handsomely displayed i'm not familiar with the history of that bottle i'm sorry i can't answer

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that bottle i'm sorry i can't answer probably just as well mr president just as well now let's reorient our folks for a moment we're back here in the main corridor in the ground floor crossing the hall again to the same side that the broadcasting room is on but on the other side of the stairway and this is the library library this library is lovely too very interesting you see all the panels and bookcases are made out of wood that came out of the old house and then we have on the floor here the rug that formerly was in the red room all of a sudden i believe uh it is the seal of the uh that's the presidential seal now that's the greats here in the united states but that no that's the old presidential seal you see the eagles looking the wrong way what uh why did you decide to move this rug down here mr president no it just happened to be the best place to take care of it i understand when people go through the house they let them look into the doors but they don't come in and walk over their carpets the library itself i understand that this was all given by the book sellers association of america back in 1929 when they learned with considerable horror that there wasn't a library in the white house that's correct and every year they add to it oh good do you have an actual part in the selection of those no no no they they send them here and we put them in this and after they've been here a long time and the place gets full we send them out the library of congress mr president rather personal question do you actually spend much time in the libraries here in the public part of the house i know you have a study upstairs where you no i swear i spend all my time at the desk upstairs and not have more books up there than are in this library what about the interesting fireplace here mr president those are original tiles that was around that were around the old fireplace they just they were back just as they were uh in the uh in this room down here yes mr president where downstairs here was the map room during world war ii where uh it was it was the room

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ii where uh it was it was the room that's to the left as you come in of the diplomatic reception room uh the room now being used for a cloak right now it's used for men's cloakroom or ladies that was down there where uh president uh roosevelt and winston churchill plotted the war together uh uh immediately after pearl harbor when mr shelby spent 42 days here in the well yeah that's correct when i and when i first came here my first stop every morning was at the map room to see what was going on in the world and that remained the map room until the japanese surrendered uh you got your briefings from the military leaders conversations were made from that room very interesting indeed sir the rest of the ground floor here mr president we obviously haven't seen all the rooms leading off of this large corridor uh what what are in the other rooms here sir well the white house kitchen is uh at the end on the right as we face west the doctor's office is uh next to the uh the uh room reception room and then the housekeeper's room is down at the end on the left and where is the famous swimming pool the swimming pool is in the uh west wing it's not in the main part of the fight between here and the executive executive office that's right i think i point out for the folks that the executive officers aren't actually a integral part of the white house they are built out on uh new wings that's right they're the west wing of the white house as you look at the picture well thank you very much mr president for this ground floor tour and you have a lot more rooms upstairs great historic value that i know the people of the united states are going to be very interested in having you show them around well i'll do the better here's bryce and rash waiting up at the head of the stairs for us to take you through some more of the rooms or for you to take him through i think okay thank you fine thank mr president we'd like to uh

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fine thank mr president we'd like to uh orient ourselves a little bit right here we you came up from the basement up through the stairs and we're back now we came up the main foyer that's right we came up the stairway which the reception people use when they come here to state receptions and we're we're back right at the moment where we uh started this trip that's right in the main hallway yeah and incidentally it was right over here on the floor that that seal that was embedded that was later taken the scene was here in the center it's now over the uh doorway of the diplomatic reception room it was right here right here you didn't like the idea of it uh being walked up i didn't want people to walk on of course not the new seals up over the blue

room we'll get that in just a minute let's walk down to the to the state dining room mr president now in sort of a secondary corridor that's right directly in front of the lobby and walking down toward the state dining room which is at the this is west side this is the main hallway of the house where the state dining room and one in the blue room east room is the other and the powers off the off of it um as they come famous east room at the other end this is the dining room sorry main dining room behind me it's the main dining room and uh in the old days the stairway for the second floor came down on this the north side of this room and there was a wall here even with that doorway and that's all that room they had and they used it for a cabinet room at that time and the green present dream room was used for a dining room now this is the state dining room and we can seat 102 people here for our state line and when you uh when you do have a state dinner here it's made in the form of a horseshoe that's right around the room that's correct and right over here is the family dining room yes family dining rooms right next to this that's a much smaller room incidentally it was in the family dining room where uh the piano nearly came through the ceiling is that right it did come through really one of the

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it did come through really one of the legs of marcus piana came through and we had to put a scaffolding in there to keep the whole thing from falling down my heavens i didn't realize it was it was that bad really okay this is the famous lincoln portrait tell us about that picture lincoln made by healy and it was donated to the white house by robert lincoln when he died it was a family portrait the original of it is over in the office where the newsmen gather and there are four men in that picture this is an exact duplicate of the one over there if you'll notice chair and all and that picture was made the four-man picture was his general sherman general grant admiral porter and mr lincoln and it was painted on the hudson queen then healey took that small picture to europe and painted the immense one which was given to a club in chicago and when the cow kicked over the lantern that great portrait was burned but i managed to get a hold of the original and and we now have the lincoln portrait of bihidi over the state dining room mantle now before the uh before the renovation uh this was a much darker room wasn't it yes it's black walnut black walnut so we've stained it a lovely light green color which makes the dining room much much more pleasant in which to hold dinners it's a very very lovely room i think he did yes shall we walk over here and talk about this for just a moment all right this is the over mantle which uh king george vi sent us by the hand of princess elizabeth he's candelabra go with it it's a lovely thing and we decided that it was too beautiful to put anywhere out of sight so we put it on the north wall of the state dining room so everybody can see it that's very beautiful uh princess

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that's very beautiful uh princess elizabeth gave that to you on behalf of her father she spread presented it to me and down in the rose garden so i remember that uh dedication very well mr president lovely ceremony yes and uh this side of the room here [Music] you're now leaving the state dining room coming back out into the foyer back out of the hall that leads to before you had a story about this about this wonderful picture here mr president well for a long time we didn't have a picture of president hoover and his customary to hang the picture of a last president on the right side of the main lobby as you come into the white house and the one just previous to him on the left hand side mr coolidge's picture used to hang over there where president hoover's is now and we were having a cloak and dagger movie down in the movie room and mr coolidge's picture took a nation to fall down so we thought maybe we were being thoughts about some of the coping boys right now out of the hall and into the beautiful red room it's the red room this is the parlor where mrs truman holds their our informal teas and it's also the room in which the cabinet and the officers meet on state reception days and uh we have some wonderful pictures in here there's a picture of grover cleveland one of woodrow wilson one of william mckinley one of theodor roosevelt the theodore roosevelt pictures by the john singer sergeant that's the most expensive picture in the house really yes and then we have a beautiful clock on the mantel which is presented by the president of france it's a lovely thing and it plays all kinds of chimes when it really gets ready to go off that was presented uh by president oreo and uh was given actually by ambassador bonet that's right the uh master bernie bonnet brought it

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the uh master bernie bonnet brought it down and it's such a beautiful thing we thought we ought to put it where everybody could see it well that belongs to the government of the united states the uh this mantle here is one of the original mantles that's right it's an atom it was brought here and placed in the white house by president adams um well no it i don't know when it was placed but there's what's called an adam man oh i see you way ahead of me on this this this room is lovely uh red damask walls that's great and uh the this large long sofa here is of red uh uh satin red material that's right and the other uh chairs are in light pale sort of um oyster white that's correct that's correct that's that's absolutely correct and this is the room where mrs truman has informal teas that's right that's right and this is the room where when luncheons are given small ones the distinguished guests are assembled and i always come down and meet him and ask him from here into the state dining room i see an after isn't this room two years after the formal dinners uh where the ladies come after the dinner yes yes i think we might take an opportunity for a moment mr president sit down ourselves here in the red room ah we've um yes while we're while we're here in this uh infor in one of the little informal parlors at the white house it might be an opportunity to uh to talk a little bit or show our audience a little of the uh living quarters that are on the next floor here so well that's fine i'm glad they're going to do that it's always customary for the living quarters to be strictly private by the president and his family so they when the people come to see the white house they see the ground floor which we just left a few minutes ago then they see this main floor where the east room and the state dining room and the red blue and

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state dining room and the red blue and green parlors and that's as much of the white house as the ordinary person ever sees but i had some pictures made and they're going to be shown on the screen i hope right right away mr president [Music] as the president just said the second and third floors of the white house are reserved for the president's family and guests one of the rooms in which he spends a great many hours is his study it is a large comfortable room characteristically dominated by his desk and piano during a long period of work at one he relaxes and refreshes himself at the other the white colonial mantle is flanked by the flag of the united states on one side and the president's personal flag on the other on the wall to the left of the mantle in full view from the desk hangs a portrait of the president's mother martha alan truman photographs of the first lady and miss margaret truman are grouped on the desk other photographs are on the table behind and still more on two of the bookshelves across the room in a heavy gilt frame over the mantel is a painting of a fishing scene by murdog against the wall to the right of the desk is a large globe on which the president may pinpoint the locations of activities the world over with which he is constantly concerned above the white wanes cutting the walls of the president's study are a pale green as is the rug the sofa and chairs grouped at the fireplace are upholstered in a fabric of green with a design of gold woven into the field the same material has been repeated in the draperies the entire room reflects quiet purpose if you were an honored feminine guest at the white house you might find yourself in this the rose room so called because of its color used in decorating and finishing the room is also referred to sometimes as the queen's room her majesty juliana queen of the netherlands stayed here during her recent visit to washington the first guest to use the room since renovation was completed others who've enjoyed its comfort in former years are the present queen mother when she came to the united

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mother when she came to the united states as queen elizabeth with her husband the late king george vi and queen marie of romania small wonder then that the rose room is also known as the queen's room the counterpart of the rose room for ranking male guests is the lincoln room the famous lincoln bed commands immediate attention here built as it was to oversized specifications to accommodate its occupants tall spare frame this room was not mr lincoln's bedroom but rather his office it was here at a small desk which is still a part of the room's furnishings that he signed the emancipation proclamation on the other side of the room balancing the tremendous bed is an impressive mirror and the fireplace the lincoln room is the only one in

the white house to be furnished completely in the victorian manner moving on to the third floor of the white house we reach the corridor the proportions of which are ample for relaxation during the renovation the corners of the roof were raised and while you might not guess it the third floor now has 31 rooms and nine baths of course space was utilized more efficiently particularly for storage you see an example of this in the built-in bookshelves lining one side of the corridor a typical third floor guest room has twin beds reflecting the 18th century style with appropriate matching pieces much of the furniture is new consisting largely of authentic reproductions and on the third floor over the south portico is the enlarged sun parlor this room was obviously designed for comfort down to the green tinted glass of the windows for filtering the sun's heat and glare the sun parlor faces south with an historic view including the washington monument the jefferson memorial and sweeping to the tidal basin toward the potomac river it's a view which the president and his family frequently enjoy when they're having breakfast or lunch in the sun party but now that we've seen a few of the rooms on the second and third floors let's return to the first floor where we will join the president

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mr president we are now going to take a picture of the jefferson memorial itself as you see it from the back porch or this porch here [Music] i want to correct you bryson the south front of the white house is the front the pennsylvania side is the back but everybody in these days calls the pennsylvania side the front of the house but the front of the house is the house that is the part that faces south i wonder how that uh how that got mixed up that way well there used to be a street through here and they took that street out on account of the fact that they wanted to save all these beautiful park grounds for the white house incidentally uh this uh porch this back porch i mentioned ago is also the the scene of that famous balcony right right above us here well the balcony belonged on that uh south uh porch and uh nobody has ever found any fault with it since it's been finished it created quite a few are here when the boys didn't understand what was happening just like they they made the same kind of a mistake when we tried to finish the capitol building you know the capitol building isn't finished the dome hangs seven feet over the

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hangs seven feet over the east portico and that old uh sandstone building some of these days gonna crumple up with that heavy iron dome on top of it and the same sort of a campaign was made we didn't get to finish the capitol building it ought to be finished that dome was put on the old part of the building in about 1863 and if you go down to the capitol building when you're on a tour of washington you'll find in the basement of the capitol uh an architect's model of the capitol building as it should be some time or otherwise somebody will get it done well this uh this uh porch we're talking about overlooks the jefferson memorial uh on in the south side of the white house and that that's one floor one arm of a cross almost that's right well it's the mall the white house is on the north side of the mall the jefferson memorial is on the south side of the mall and the washington monument is supposed to be in line with them but when they went to build the washington monument there was a swamp where they wanted to put it caused by the old chesapeake and potomac canal and so they moved the monument 160 feet east to the point where it ought to be washington monuments 160 feet east where it ought to have been but it does not injure the situation and it's standing up which it wouldn't have done if they put it in the swamp then the lincoln memorial is one end of the mall the west end and the capitol building and the other the washington monument is in the part of that axis this this porch too uh you've been uh you've been known to stand out there and watch ball games down on the ellipse from time to time haven't you been with field glasses yeah uh-huh i tried to go down to one of those bowl games one sunday when i was here by myself and all i succeeded in doing is to break up the ball game well that was that was a shame mr president we're still uh sitting here in the uh in the red room uh the small informal little parlor that's uh toward the west side of the building and uh i

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west side of the building and uh i should thank you mr president we might like to continue this tour for people walk out this is the famous sergeant portrait of theodore roosevelt there on the wall yes it's on the right of the door as we go out we're back out in the uh in the main corridor corridor hallway and uh we're going to go into the blue room in just a moment but let's take a look first mr president of this new seal which we talked about the new seal is placed right over the top of the door here and it shows the eagle's head pointed toward the olive branch that's correct and it also has another uh thing about it that's new surrounding the eagle over whose head are 13 stars of the 13 original states are 48 stars which represents the whole union and on the outside of the whole thing it says the seal of the president of the united states it's beautiful a beautiful seal it certainly is and it's uh more much more appropriate there immediately over the blue room than it is on the people where people can't walk on the sea well thank you very much mr president now i'm going to turn you over to frank very cool all right we'll go in the blue yes sir mr president this room is uh one of the three oval rooms isn't that right mr president yes the diplomatic reception room on the ground floor in the blue room in my study on the second floor all over rooms it's a beautiful room this room is and this point right here is where mrs truman and i stand when we have state receptions mrs truman on where i am or on your left mrs truman's on on stands where you are and uh just uh the other evening we stood here and shook hands with 1539 people by account my goodness diplomatic reception

[00:36:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Um8la1dRNR0&t=2160s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Um8la1dRNR0&t=2160s)

account my goodness diplomatic reception they can come through the door on your left and uh out into the red room that's right or over here and then going into the dining room and have some cookies and punch and then go away how many of the names of people in a line that long can you normally remember mr president well ordinarily you take the uh congressional receptions and the uh judicial receptions i know mole and i remember them all but in the diplomatic reception uh there are people from all over the world and i didn't remember very many of the names of course i knew all the ambassadors but that's about all what about the furniture in this room mr president is this this furniture in this room was purchased by james monroe in paris when jefferson was president it's the only really antique furniture that's left of course it's been upholstered time and again and the clock here on the mantle that was brought back here by james monroe when jefferson was president we take a closer look at the clock mr president yes it's it's a beautiful clock and it still uh keeps good time is there any uh i guess that's that minerva i believe i've heard of a nervous clock is that the minerva clock mr president i don't know i can't answer you frank and that's that's uh either minerva or i'm sure that is palestinian do all these clocks run mr president yes they all run in every room we have a special man whines clocks every friday how about the uh hangings in this room mr president of course if the our people could see the color they'd see it was all blue has it always been a blue room oh no it hasn't always been a blue room that uh red couch down in the uh in the china room used to be in this room and they were had red furniture in here but ever since uh i can remember i think as far back as anyway as cleveland's administration it's been the blue room and president cleveland was married in this room oh the only president to be married

[00:38:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Um8la1dRNR0&t=2281s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Um8la1dRNR0&t=2281s)

room oh the only president to be married the only president to be married in the white house that's right mr president wasn't it uh this ceiling that uh first began to tremble when you uh decided the white house needed to be renovated yes my studies right over this and uh i had a tray brought to me for luncheon one day i was here by myself the time they were at home and the floor bounced up and down and i had an engineer and an architect come in and they moved me out and that was the beginning of the innovation of the disintegration is there anything about this uh chandelier up here mr president that no i don't know that that these chandeliers nearly all have been uh presented some of them since we've been here some of them before some of the most beautiful chandeliers in the white house were taken down to the capitol building and are still there i tried to get them back they wouldn't let me have them uh you might take a look at the green room uh next room mr president the uh blue room incidentally which we just left uh you said is under your study that means it's under the more or less famous balcony that you had built out there well the balcony goes around the outside of it what is the green room used for mr president this is where diplomats are received when they first come

and where they usually pay their respects when they go to leave the country it used to be a dining room in the old days yeah but that is up to van buren's time i think we have four presidential pictures in this room could we move over here and take a look at this uh this one on our our left over here jefferson jefferson's on the west wall john quincy adams is on the east wall and i was telling you a while ago about the old chesapeake and potoma canal that interfered with the erection of the washington monument john quincy was down in that canal one morning taking a swim he was an early riser just like i am

[00:40:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Um8la1dRNR0&t=2400s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Um8la1dRNR0&t=2400s)

riser just like i am an old lady went down and sat on his clothes because she wanted a job and he she hadn't been able to get it did she get at that time i understand that she did then on the north wall we have james k polk and martin van buren uh i wonder about this seal in the rug mr president if we step back uh people might be able to take a look at it that's the again the presidential seal yes that's the presidential seal and that's the uh the new seal the one that you had designed that's right the eagles facing to the north we have the to the olive branch and we have the uh 48 stars around the outside of it how about this mantle over here mr president that's one of the atom metals that's one of the old ones one of the original from the original has been the white house ever since it was first built incidentally the green room uh as as i recall is the only one of these rooms that has a color in its name that's always been that color is that is my understanding right now i don't know for sure that's what i've been told but i i can't pose as an authority on that i was also talking to your daughter a while ago mr president she tells me that this chandelier up here is uh one that was bought i believe by mrs coolidge in the flea market in paris is is that uh that's my understanding yeah sort of a bargain that she picked up over there it's a beautiful thing it's a very beautiful chandelier all the chandeliers on this floor are lovely mr president might we take a look at the east room now [Music] this i guess is the largest room in the white house isn't it mr president yes this is the ballroom this is where all the people assemble when we have state receptions and then they march through the green room to the blue room and then to the red room and the state dining room where they have refreshments isn't this also where the people who

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isn't this also where the people who come personally to the white house for a tour of the uh public room this is where their upstairs tour begins this is where the tour begins in the east room we are ending up where they usually begin this is a picture of george washington where before now it's an imitation steward i understand that it's not a real steward [Music] yes but uh i'm not sure about that some people say that stuart painted the face and one of his hired health painted the rest of the figure at any rate uh dolly madison is credited accredited with having saving it saved it when the british burned the house that's the one that she cut down and tucked under her arm and ran out the door with mr president well that's the story but that story isn't true she took the frame picture and all and took it away in a big wagon but the story the story was always going around that uh she cut the picture out of the frame rolled it up and put it under a dress and took it with her and one of the quiz kids one time asked president roosevelt uh what sort of a knife she used to cut the picture out of the frame and mr roosevelt told me that he didn't hesitate him in he said why kitchen knife of course this uh piano over here mr president it's a wonderful steinway pianist beautiful piano and has one of the most wonderful tones of any piano i've ever ever heard you have a piano i guess in your study uh do you ever play the pianos in the public rooms mr president hardly ever i wondered if uh you wouldn't mind if i just hit a note of this piano so people could tell what white house pianist sounds like i'll show them what it sounds like [Music]

[00:44:03 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Um8la1dRNR0&t=2643s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Um8la1dRNR0&t=2643s)

[Music] so thank you very much mr president now we have another piano up here too that's a good one that was presented to the new white house by an american piana company the baldwin people it's a lovely can of two in a mahogany case with silver trimmings has the seal on the outside and it also has a beautiful tone [Music] i think that was very fair to play both pianos that's great well that's a beautiful piano both of them are

sometime or other i'm hoping to have a reception and have a two piano concert here by a couple of the world's great chemists i'm sure we'll have that one of these i think you can do that while you're still in in the white house mr president is that something to look for i can't i can't do it any other time then go do it for a move out mr president another thing about the east room that i've heard i think you're the source of the story is that abigail adams hunger washing here that's correct that's correct if you read the life of mrs john adams abigail adams it states there that the floor was not in the east room when the adams has moved in they moved in 1798 the house was started in 1792 it wasn't finished by 1798 it was almost as slow a job as the one we just finished and so there was nothing to do with the room but use it as a laundry drying room then i said well that's what she used it for but they finally finished it and it's always been the state ballroom and the place of our receiving the people who are here for diplomatic receptions and things of that sort

[00:46:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Um8la1dRNR0&t=2760s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Um8la1dRNR0&t=2760s)

receptions and things of that sort haven't there also mr president been some uh famous weddings in the east room here yes yes one of the wilson girls was married here alice roosevelt was married in this room and there was another one of the white house daughters was married here who i i my recollection is bad but it's also been used for funerals president roosevelt's land state here and president hardy and nearly all the presidents who died in office have been laying state here in this room thank you mr president now if we can uh take a look at the date stone out here in the hall all right [Music] i'm very gracious of you to show us through the president's house mr president i had to do it here's the dates of the construction of the white house it was begun in 1792 finished in 1798 it was burned in 1814 was reconstructed in 1817-18 and theodore roosevelt had it completely overhauled in 1902 and the last overhaul was just finished in 1952. when do you think it's going to need it again mr president well i think in about a thousand years mr president wasn't the theater roosevelt that added the west wing yes and uh presidential offices and president roosevelt added the easter egg that's correct well there was some re-uh modeling uh rather redecorating wasn't there several years ago 1946 or so there have been several remodelings uh chester arthur uh remodeled it one time calvin coolidge put a uh third floor put in the third floor that's one of the reasons the house fell down

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one of the reasons the house fell down and it was too heavy for the pullers that's right put a concrete floor on top and several of the presidents have uh uh made improvements and additions and things of that sort you'll find now over here at the state stairway as it comes out the seals of all the original 13 states around that entrance there mr president uh i'd like to thank you again for being so gracious as to receive us [Music] thank you very much mr president of the united states [Music] everyone [Music] [Applause] [Music] [Applause] uh [Music] [Applause] blackboard [Music] god

[00:50:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Um8la1dRNR0&t=3001s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Um8la1dRNR0&t=3001s)

[Music] i'm this program came to you from washington dc cbs television presents musical moments on film you

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